

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JANUARY 13 PRESS ROUNDUP

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. SYNDICATED COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, WRITING IN JAN. 13 WASHINGTON POST, CHARGED (BEGIN TEXT): WHITE HOUSE HAS DISPATCHED AN URGENT, EYES-ONLY CABLE TO OUR SALT NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA INSISTING THAT THEY SAY NOTHING TO PRESS ABOUT DELICATE ARMS REDUCTION TALKS WITHOUT DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION. ANYONE WHO DISREGARDS ORDER TO BUTTON UP, INSTRUCTIONS EMPHASIZE, WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSTANT DISMISSAL. DIRECTIVE MENTIONS NO NAMES, BUT GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAY IT IS AIMED AT LT. GEN. EDWARD ROWNY, WHO REPRESENTS JCS ON SALT TEAM. HE GAVE WASHING-
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TON POST'S VETERAN CORRESPONDENT WALTER PINCUS AN INTERVIEW, QUESTIONING COMPETENCE AND MOTIVES OF NON-MILITARY MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION. THIS DREW SIZZLING, SECRET RESPONSE FROM AN OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVER AT TALKS, REP. ROBERT CARR, WHO DEMANDED THAT ROWNY BE CASHIERED AS SALT NEGOTIATOR. ROWNY MUST GO, CARR WROTE PRESIDENT CARTER, BECAUSE HE HAS "UNDERCUT U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

POSTURE" AND HAS DISPLAYED "STARTLING LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM." HAND-DELIVERED LETTER TO PRESIDENT CHARGED THAT

ROWNY HAD SPOKEN "IN DEROGATORY, DISPARAGING AND DIVISIVE TERMS OF COMPETENCE AND POLICIES OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION." CARR CONTENDED THAT "SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRES OUR DELEGATION TO WORK AS TEAM AND TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE TO SOVIET NEGOTIATORS, JUST AS THEY SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE WITH U.S." RESPONDING FOR PRESIDENT, WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI AGREED THAT U.S. DELEGATES SHOULD "NOT DISCUSS ANY ASPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT CLEARED" AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "THIS POLICY HAS NOT BEEN FOLLOWED." STIFF PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE WAS SENT TO GENEVA, THEREFORE, BLACKING OUT SALT TALKS. (END TEXT)

2. WALL STREET JOURNAL, IN NEWSBRIEF, COMMENTED THAT "DELAYS WILL PLAY PART IN CARTER'S STRATEGY. SALT TWO ACCORD MAY BE READY BY SUMMER, BUT MOVE FOR SENATE RATIFICATION WILL PROBABLY WAIT TILL AFTER FALL ELECTIONS."

3. BALTIMORE SUN'S CHARLES CORDDRY SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS DETERMINED "TO BUCK HEAVY OPPOSITION AND PRESS AHEAD WITH PROPOSAL TO SELL SAUDI ARABIA 60 F-15 JET FIGHTERS, AMONG WORLD'S BEST." HE REPORTED CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES AS SAYING PROPOSAL IS EXPECTED ON CAPITOL HILL
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"PRETTY SOON," WHERE IT WILL BE FOUGHT BY SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL AND ADVOCATES OF REDUCED ARMS SALES. "ADMINISTRATION WILL ARGUE THAT IT IS ESSENTIALLY CARRYING OUT COMMITMENT MADE BY PREDECESSOR FORD REGIME AND THAT ACTION IS URGENTLY IMPORTANT TO AMERICAN-SAUDI RELATIONS."

4. GEORGE WILSON OF WASHINGTON POST SAID AIR FORCE OFFICIALS WANT TO ENCODE SIGNALS FROM U.S. MISSILE TESTS IN ORDER TO KEEP SOVIETS FROM BEING ABLE TO LEARN TECHNICAL SECRETS. WILSON SAID DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN IS RESISTING THESE DEMANDS, AS HAVE HIS PREDECESSORS IN PENTAGON. "PENTAGON SOURCES INDICATE THAT SOVIETS, AT LEAST ON SOME SS-20 AND OTHER TEST MISSILE FLIGHTS, HAVE ENCODED TELEMETRY TO PREVENT U.S. FROM MONITORING FLIGHT." CENTRAL ISSUE, WILSON COMMENTED, IS WHETHER IT IS CONTRARY TO LETTER OR, AT LEAST, SPIRIT OF SALT ONE AGREEMENT TO SCREEN MISSILE SIGNALS. AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT "EACH PARTY UNDERTAKES NOT TO INTERFERE WITH NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION OF OTHER PARTIES." WILSON SAID "BROWN IS UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT HE WANTS TO PERSUADE SOVIETS THAT IT IS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF TWO SUPER-POWERS TO MONITOR EACH OTHER'S TESTS--IN EFFECT, READ EACH

OTHER'S ELECTRONIC MAIL IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS AREA." TELEMETRY IN TESTS AT ISSUE PROVIDES INFORMATION ON STATUS OF EACH COUNTRY'S MISSILE PROGRAM, SUCH DATA AS RANGE, ACCURACY AND LIKELY PAYLOAD OF LATEST ROCKETS, WILSON

SAID. "SOME U.S. SOURCES SUGGEST THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT ONE AGREEMENT. ON OTHER HAND, U.S. ACDA REGARDS SUCH SIGNALS AS PART OF 'NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION' WHICH TREATY REQUIRES BE KEPT OPEN TO ALL SIDES, ACCORDING TO ITS SPOKESMAN, THOMAS A. HALSTED. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL U.S. CONTENTION, HOWEVER, THAT SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN IN VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT. AIR FORCE OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT U.S. IS ON LOSING END OF PROPOSITION-- WITH ITS TELEMETRY OPEN TO SOVIET MONITORS WHILE RUSSIANS UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCODE THEIR OWN." WILSON SAID ISSUE WAS REVIVED RECENTLY BY FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY MELVIN LAIRD IN DECEMBER ISSUE OF READER'S DIGEST, WHO CHARGED SOVIETS SOUGHT TO HIDE CAPABILITIES OF SS-20 BY ENCRYPTING ITS TELEMETRY "TO MAKE IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO US." WILSON NOTED THAT LAIRD, DURING HIS TENURE AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, REJECTED AIR FORCE PLEAS TO ENCODE U.S. MISSILE TELEMETRY ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD VIOLATE SALT ONE VERIFICATION PROVISION.

5. WILLIAM BORDERS OF NEW YORK TIMES, REPORTING FROM NEW DELHI, SAID PRIME MINISTER DESAI REITERATED INDIA'S OBJECTIONS TO FULL INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION OF ITS NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS. DENYING THAT HIS POSITION HAD CHANGED ON ISSUE OF SO-CALLED SAFEGUARDS AGAINST DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DESAI SAID, AS HE HAD BEFORE, THAT IT WAS UNFAIR TO EXPECT CONCESSIONS FROM INDIA SO LONG AS AN ARMS RACE CONTINUED AMONG BIG POWERS. CHRISTOPHER

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